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Area Wage Survey
Charleston-North Charleston-Walterboro, SC
July 1985

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U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
September 1985

This summary presents results of a July 1985 survey of occupational wages and supplementary benefits in the Charleston-North Charleston-Walterboro area, which consists of Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, and Dorchester Counties. This is 1 of 99 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 71 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 104 establishments employing 29,284 workers was selected to represent 322 establishments employing 59,338 workers in the area. (See table 5 for further information on the scope of the survey.) Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Tables 2, 3, and 4 present information on paid holidays, vacation pay provisions, and health, insurance, and pension plans for nonsupervisory production and related workers and office workers.

Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request.

New or revised occupational descriptions are being introduced in this survey for word processors, motor vehicle mechanics (formerly maintenance mechanics, motor vehicles), and material handling laborers.

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles, TX-LA, May 1985

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (all workers)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																							
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.35 and under 3.50	3.50 – 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 – 17.00	17.00 and over
Secretaries	342	11.18	11.96	7.85–13.92	-	-	-	-	8	28	23	13	7	11	15	9	3	2	10	15	30	48	39	29	23	28	1
Secretaries I	51	6.09	5.91	5.50- 6.20	-	-	-	-	8	20	13	4	2	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secretaries II	63	12.02	12.09	11.01–13.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	3	2	3	11	8	20	17	3	-	-	-
Secretaries III	198	12.18	12.90	10.14–14.59	-	-	-	-	-	8	10	4	5	4	10	6	-	-	3	11	21	27	21	25	20	23	-
Secretaries IV	15	10.20	10.50	6.92–11.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	-
Secretaries V	9	16.40	16.21	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	1
Stenographers	225	11.97	12.56	10.40–13.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	11	16	2	31	24	13	33	52	20	18	-	-
Stenographers I	42	11.71	12.40	11.04–12.56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	3	-	11	16	2	4	-	-	-
Stenographers II	183	12.03	12.65	10.40–13.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	16	2	28	24	2	17	50	16	18	-	-
File clerks	86	5.51	4.93	4.62- 5.68	-	-	5	39	16	6	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
File clerks I	82	5.16	4.90	4.62- 5.68	-	-	5	39	16	6	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receptionists	16	5.45	5.32	4.96- 5.50	-	-	-	4	4	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switchboard operators	63	7.01	6.40	4.44- 9.51	4	-	12	4	2	-	13	4	1	2	2	2	-	7	-	1	6	3	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators	119	7.43	5.83	4.95–10.40	-	4	7	22	18	9	8	12	-	1	3	-	1	1	6	1	4	11	11	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators I	94	6.35	5.40	4.84- 6.81	-	4	7	22	18	8	7	12	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	4	7	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators II	25	11.50	12.32	10.40–13.40	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	4	11	-	-	-	-
Computer operators	120	8.90	7.50	5.75–11.78	-	-	-	-	14	29	3	8	-	8	8	-	5	1	10	-	5	9	5	2	9	2	2
Computer operators I	51	5.87	5.75	5.48- 5.90	-	-	-	-	14	28	1	1	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer operators II	66	10.99	10.24	8.46–13.48	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	-	1	8	-	5	1	10	-	5	9	3	2	8	2	2
Drafters	147	13.37	14.00	12.16–15.95	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	12	-	2	1	2	2	3	8	14	24	29	16	26	3
Drafters III	30	9.67	9.48	7.65–11.34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	2	1	2	2	1	4	6	-	-	-	-	-
Drafters IV	59	13.97	14.55	13.10–14.55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	6	15	19	10	-	2
Drafters V	52	15.60	16.65	14.05–16.73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	10	6	26	1
Electronics technicians	105	13.46	14.55	11.29–14.78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	7	6	4	9	63	2	-	-
Electronics technicians II	27	11.03	10.45	10.45–12.23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	6	-	4	3	-	-	-	-
Electronics technicians III	71	14.61	14.78	14.55–14.78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	63	2	-	-
Maintenance carpenters	199	14.60	14.65	14.64–14.82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	194	-	-	-
Maintenance electricians	554	14.39	14.80	14.45–14.82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	6	-	-	-	36	-	9	411	84	-	-
Maintenance painters	131	14.67	14.71	14.64–14.82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	129	-	-	-
Maintenance machinists	200	14.36	14.71	14.64–14.72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	6	-	3	-	-	178	8	-	-
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	1,125	13.89	14.85	14.35–14.82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	6	22	48	56	6	6	16	2	19	798	134	-	-
Maintenance pipefitters	724	14.68	14.65	14.64–14.82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	6	-	8	9	8	2	3	-	-	721	-	-	-
Motor vehicle mechanics	160	12.56	13.88	10.28–14.64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	3	25	67	2	-	-
General maintenance workers	38	5.36	5.25	4.67- 6.00	-	-	-	7	4	9	7	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stationary engineers	143	14.72	14.76	14.71–15.26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	12	86	44	-	-
Truckdrivers	615	10.99	12.84	7.36–14.09	-	-	-	21	7	55	24	25	-	24	13	20	-	-	-	14	4	42	62	150	154	-	-	-
Truckdrivers, light truck	50	8.81	11.14	4.25–13.41	-	-	-	15	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	11	-	15	-	-	-	-
Truckdrivers, medium truck	234	11.54	12.16	10.00–14.16	-	-	-	6	-	30	-	1	-	5	4	9	-	-	-	8	3	24	31	8	105	-	-	-
Truckdrivers, heavy truck	129	13.12	13.10	13.10–13.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	3	124	2	-	-	-
Truckdrivers, tractor-trailer	131	10.03	8.40	7.35–14.89	-	-	-	-	-	13	6	12	-	19	8	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	39	-	-	-
Material handling laborers	170	7.69	7.23	5.30- 8.45	-	-	-	-	6	39	12	-	-	37	1	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	-	-	-	-
Forklift operators	305	10.82	12.38	7.48–13.42	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	21	19	36	15	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	108	28	-	-	-
Guards	845	5.68	4.25	3.75- 6.00	16	282	250	49	19	17	27	27	43	6	11	4	1	1	2	2	3	1	-	75	12	24	-	-
Guards I	845	5.68	4.25	3.75- 6.00	16	282	250	49	19	17	27	43	6	11	4	1	1	2	2	3	1	-	75	12	24	-	-	-
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	1,065	4.22	3.40	3.35- 4.00	555	216	109	69	32	5	-	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	15	46	-	-	-	-	-	-

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Cost of living allowances and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more and one-half receive the same as or less than the rate shown. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

Table 2. Annual paid holidays for full-time workers in Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles, TX-LA, May 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid holidays	8	1
In establishments providing paid holidays	92	99
Number of holidays:		
6 half days	(1)	-
1 holiday	(1)	(1)
3 holidays	-	(1)
4 holidays	4	1
5 holidays	7	7
6 holidays	4	5
7 holidays	9	8
Plus 1 half day	-	(1)
8 holidays	3	16
9 holidays	5	12
10 holidays	47	36
11 holidays	14	15
Average number of paid holidays where provided (in days)	8.9	8.8

[1] Less than 0.5 percent.
Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 3. Paid vacation provisions[1] for full-time workers in Charleston-North Charleston-Walterboro, SC, July 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid vacations	4	–
In establishments providing paid vacations	96	100
Length-of-time payment	89	99
Percentage payment	7	(2)
By vacation pay provisions for:[3]		
6 months of service:	2	(2)
Under 1 week	25	56
1 week	4	6
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	–	1
2 weeks		
1 year of service:	56	23
1 week	4	3
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	33	70
2 weeks	1	3
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	2	–
Over 3 and under 4 weeks		
2 years of service:	31	9
1 week	5	1
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	54	72
2 weeks	2	6
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	–	11
3 weeks	3	1
Over 3 and under 4 weeks		
3 years of service:	9	6
1 week	6	1
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	73	74
2 weeks	2	6
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	2	12
3 weeks	3	1
Over 3 and under 4 weeks		
5 years of service:	5	3
1 week	61	43
2 weeks	2	7
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	25	46
3 weeks	2	(2)
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	1	1
Over 4 and under 5 weeks		
10 years of service:	5	3
1 week	23	8
2 weeks	–	2
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	54	77
3 weeks	6	4
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	6	5
4 weeks	1	1
Over 4 and under 5 weeks		
15 years of service:	5	3
1 week	21	7
2 weeks	–	2
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	35	36
3 weeks	3	3
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	31	49
4 weeks	1	1
Over 5 and under 6 weeks		
20 years of service:	5	3
1 week	21	7
2 weeks	–	2
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	16	23
3 weeks	3	3
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	38	48
4 weeks	10	11
5 weeks	2	2
Over 5 and under 6 weeks		
25 years of service:	5	3
1 week	20	7
2 weeks	–	2
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	17	23
3 weeks	3	3
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	29	36
4 weeks	16	22
5 weeks	2	2
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	2	1
6 weeks		
30 years of service:	5	3
1 week	20	7
2 weeks	–	2
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	17	23
3 weeks	3	3
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	29	36
4 weeks	14	17
5 weeks	2	2
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	6	7
6 weeks		
Maximum vacation available:	5	3
1 week	20	7
2 weeks	–	2
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	17	23
3 weeks	3	3
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	29	36
4 weeks	14	17
5 weeks	2	2
Over 5 and under 6 weeks	6	7
6 weeks		

[1] Includes basic plans only. Excludes plans such as vacation bonus, vacation-savings, and those plans which offer 'extended' or 'sabbatical' benefits beyond basic plans to workers with qualifying lengths of service. Typical of such exclusions are plans in the steel, aluminum, and can industries.

[2] Less than 0.5 percent.

[3] Includes payment other than 'length of time,' such as percentage of annual earnings or flat-sum payments converted to an equivalent time basis; a payment of 2 percent of annual earnings was considered as 1 week's pay. Periods of service were chosen arbitrarily and do not necessarily reflect individual provisions for progression. For example, the changes in proportions at 10 years' service include changes in provisions occurring between 5 and 10 years. Estimates are cumulative. Thus, the proportion eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after 10 years includes those eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after fewer years of service.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 4. Health, insurance, and pension plans offered to full-time workers in Charleston-North Charleston-Walterboro, SC, July 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments offering at least one of the benefits shown below[1]	92	99
Life insurance	88	98
Noncontributory plans	62	71
Accidental death and dismemberment insurance	78	90
Noncontributory plans	55	64
Sickness and accident insurance or sick leave or both[2]	78	92
Sickness and accident insurance	53	50
Noncontributory plans	45	35
Sick leave (full pay and no waiting period)	48	78
Sick leave (partial pay or waiting period)	3	6
Long-term disability insurance	24	43
Noncontributory plans	23	29
Hospitalization insurance	88	99
Noncontributory plans	50	45
Surgical insurance	88	99
Noncontributory plans	50	45
Medical insurance	88	99
Noncontributory plans	50	45
Major medical insurance	86	98
Noncontributory plans	48	45
Dental insurance	51	70
Noncontributory plans	33	35
Health maintenance organization	-	-
Noncontributory plans	-	-
Retirement pension	66	68
Noncontributory plans	62	64

[1] Estimates listed after type of benefit are for all plans for which at least part of the cost is borne by the employer. 'Noncontributory plans' include only those financed entirely by the employer. Excluded are legally required plans such as workers' compensation, social security, and railroad retirement.

[2] Unduplicated total of workers receiving sick leave or sickness and accident insurance shown separately below. Sick leave plans are limited to those which definitely establish at least the minimum number of days' pay that each employee can expect. Informal sick leave allowances determined on an individual basis are excluded.

Table 5. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles, TX-LA,[1] May 1985

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments				
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey				Studied[4]
				Total[4]		Full-time production and related workers	Full-time office workers	
				Number	Percent			
All divisions	50	366	102	74,037	100	40,047	7,250	38,471
Manufacturing	50	77	32	35,122	47	23,773	2,877	24,229
Nonmanufacturing[5]	50	289	70	38,915	53	16,274	4,373	14,242

[1] The Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget through February 1974, consist of Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties, TX; and Calcasieu Parish, LA. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis of comparison with other statistical series for the area to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The 1972 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual was used in classifying establishments by industry division.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets of companies in such industries as trade, finance, auto repair service, and motion picture theaters (within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area or nonmetropolitan county) are considered as one establishment.

[4] Includes executive, professional, part-time, and other workers excluded from the separate production and office categories.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; laundries and other personal services; automobile repair, rental, and parking; motion pictures; nonprofit membership organizations (excluding religious and charitable organizations); engineering and architectural services; and miscellaneous business services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; some services (notably educational institutions and medical services); and government operations.

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Virginia
West Virginia

Region IV

Suite 540
1371 Peachtree St., NE
Atlanta, GA 30367
Phone: 881-4418 (Area Code 404)

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee

Region V

9th Floor, 230 S. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 353-1880 (Area Code 312)

Illinois
Indiana
Michigan
Minnesota
Ohio
Wisconsin

Region VI

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Federal Building
525 Griffin Street, Rm. 221
Dallas, TX 75202
Phone: 767-6971 (Area Code 214)

Arkansas
Louisiana
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas

Regions VII and VIII

Federal Office Building
911 Walnut St., 15th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64106
Phone: 374-2481 (Area Code 816)

VII

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

VIII

Colorado
Montana
North Dakota
South Dakota
Utah
Wyoming

Regions IX and X

450 Golden Gate Ave.
Box 36017
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: 556-4678 (Area Code 415)

IX

Arizona
California
Hawaii
Nevada

X

Alaska
Idaho
Oregon
Washington